

CLAIMS:

1. A method of treating the lower beak of a bird, the method comprising:
 - positioning a bird head in a bird head positioning device, wherein the bird head positioning device comprises first and second major sides, and a beak receiving aperture formed through the first and second major sides of the bird head positioning device, wherein at least a portion of the lower beak of the bird head protrudes through the beak receiving aperture and is exposed proximate the second major side of the bird head positioning device;
 - 10 pressing inward on the throat of the bird proximate the base of the lower beak, wherein the pressing is directed towards the tongue of the bird;
 - emitting energy from a non-contact energy source; and
 - directing the energy emitted from the non-contact energy source at the second major surface of the bird head positioning device, wherein the energy is incident on the lower beak exposed proximate the second major side of the bird head positioning device while pressing inward on the throat of the bird.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the pressing is performed while the bird head is positioned in the bird head positioning device.

20

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the pressing is performed after the bird head is positioned in the bird head positioning device.
4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising adjusting a force used to perform the pressing.
- 25 5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising limiting a force used to perform the pressing

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the bird head positioning device comprises a tongue control protrusion, wherein the tongue control protrusion presses into the throat of the bird proximate the base of the lower beak.

5 7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising adjusting a force by which the tongue control protrusion presses into the throat of the bird.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the tongue control protrusion extends into the beak receiving aperture.

10 9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising adjusting a distance by which the tongue control protrusion extends into the beak receiving aperture.

10 10. A method according to claim 8, wherein the tongue control protrusion extends into the beak receiving aperture by a fixed distance.

15 11. An apparatus for treating the lower beak of a bird, the apparatus comprising:
a bird head positioning device comprising first and second major sides and a beak receiving aperture formed through the first and second major sides, the bird head positioning device adapted to position the head of a bird proximate the first major side, wherein at least a portion of the lower beak of the bird head protrudes through the beak receiving aperture and is exposed proximate the second major side of the bird head positioning device;
a non-contact energy source emitting energy;

20 25 12. an energy director directing energy from the non-contact energy source, wherein energy emitted from the non-contact energy source is incident on at least a portion of the lower beak exposed proximate the second major side of the bird head positioning device; and
a tongue control protrusion located proximate the bird head positioning device,

30 13. wherein the tongue control protrusion presses into the throat of the bird proximate the

lower beak when the lower beak of the bird head protrudes through the beak receiving aperture.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tongue control protrusion is
5 fixedly mounted relative to the beak receiving aperture of the bird head positioning device.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tongue control protrusion is
movably mounted relative to the bird head positioning device, wherein the position of
10 the tongue control protrusion relative to the beak receiving aperture is adjustable when
the lower beak of the bird head protrudes through the beak receiving aperture.

14. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a resilient member
biasing the tongue control protrusion into a position in which the tongue control
15 protrusion presses into the throat of the bird proximate the lower beak when the lower
beak of the bird head protrudes through the beak receiving aperture.

15. An apparatus for treating the beak of a bird, the apparatus comprising:
a bird head positioning device adapted to position the head of a bird such that at
20 least a portion of the beak of the bird protrudes from a beak receiving aperture of the
bird head positioning device;
a non-contact energy source emitting energy;
an energy director directing energy from the non-contact energy source at the
portion of the beak protruding from the beak receiving aperture; and
25 a tongue control protrusion extending into the beak receiving aperture, wherein
the tongue control protrusion is located within the beak receiving aperture such that the
tongue control protrusion presses into the throat of the bird proximate a lower beak of
the bird.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the tongue control protrusion is fixedly mounted within the beak receiving aperture.
17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the tongue control protrusion is movably mounted within the beak receiving aperture, wherein a distance by which the tongue control protrusion extends into the beak receiving aperture is adjustable.
5
18. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a resilient member biasing the tongue control protrusion into the beak receiving aperture.

10